

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01 SSM-03 IO-13  
HA-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
A-01 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 CA-01  
MCT-02 SCS-06 SY-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 USSS-00  
/119 W

-----122751 281350Z /46

O P 281255Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8948  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4284

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 28 - 1600 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4259 (DTG 271335Z JUL 78)

1. SUMMARY: CEASE-FIRE REMAINS GENERALLY IN EFFECT, AS TENSION  
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HAS EASED SOMEWHAT. THERE WAS A SHOWY "DEVELOPMENT" OF LEBANESE  
POLICE IN HADATH AND CONFRONTATION AREAS IN BEIRUT. NUMEROUS  
SOURCES, HOWEVER, REPORTED THAT POLICE, IN FACT, ARE NOT IN  
POSITION TO CONTROL EITHER THE SYRIANS OR MILITIA NOR TO DO MUCH  
TO PREVENT CLASHES BETWEEN THEM. THE EMBASSY'S DECISION TO EVAC-  
UATE DEPENDENTS AND TO ADVISE CITIZENS WITHOUT URGENT BUSINESS  
TO LEAVE RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE. AMIN GEMAYEL MADE SOME

MODERATE STATEMENTS, OFFSET BY MORE STRIDENT WORDS FROM HIS FATHER. THE MARONITE PATRIARCH SAID HE WOULD TOUR WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SEEK HELP FOR LEBANON. FORMER PRIME MINISTER SALAM DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM EFFORTS TO FORM ANY ANTI-PHALANGE/ ANTI-NATIONAL LIBERAL POLITICAL ALLIANCES BY SAYING HE WOULD REJECT ANY ALLIANCE AIMED AT ISOLATING "CERTAIN FACTIONS." CLASHES IN WEST BEIRUT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS SEEMED AIMED AT IMPOSING SOME MODERATE CONTROL OVER MORE EXTREMIST AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ON THE WEST SIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: UNEASY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY, AND TENSION HAS EASED SOMEWHAT IN BEIRUT. THERE WAS LIGHT MACHINE GUN FIRE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT OF 27-28 JULY IN THE HADATH AREA. NO ARTILLERY OR ROCKET FIRE WAS REPORTED THERE, HOWEVER. IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANAH/EAST BEIRUT AREA, ONLY OCCASIONAL SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS REPORTED. THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE INSERTION OF LEBANESE POLICE PATROLS BETWEEN SYRIAN AND RIGHTIST MILITIA FORCES IN BOTH BEIRUT AND THE SUBURBS, INCLUDING THE HADATH AREA. THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) ANNOUNCED AND POLICE SOURCES TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT POLICE UNITS WERE PLACED ALONGSIDE SYRIAN AND MILITIA POSITIONS, RATHER THAN ACTUALLY REPLACING FORCES OF EITHER SIDE. ONE POLICE OFFICER SAID THAT RIGHTIST MILITIAMEN HAD ALLOWED POLICE TO SET UP AND HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN, BUT HAD WARNED THE POLICE THAT THE MILITIA MIGHT ORDER THEM OUT OF THE WAY AT ANY TIME. THE ADF ANNOUNCED ONLY ONE CASUALTY ON THURSDAY, A SYRIAN SOLDIER WHO WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED WHEN TWO ADF

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SUPPLY TRUCKS IN THE BEIRUT RIVER AREA WERE FIRED ON BY SNIPERS IN THE MILL AREA ALONG THE RIVER ROAD (CORNICHE AN-NAHR).

3. EMBASSY DEPENDENTS' DEPARTURE, PERSONNEL CUT BACK AND ADVICE TO CITIZENS TO LEAVE LEBANON (SEE SEPTELS). ENGLISH LANGUAGE IKE GAVE BANNER HEADLINE COVERAGE TO THE DECISIONS, DECLARING "U.S. CITIZENS ADVISED TO LEAVE." THE FRENCH LANGUAGE L'ORIENT-LE JOUR CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ITEM ON THE ADVICE TO CITIZENS WITHOUT PRESSING BUSINESS HERE TO LEAVE. THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, AND THE CONSULAR SECTION DURING THE DAY, HAVE BEEN RECEIVING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM CITIZENS SEEKING TO CONFIRM AND CLARIFY THE ADVICE.

#### 4. CHRISTIAN LEADERS' STATEMENTS:

A. AMIN GEMAYEL, A MEMBER OF THE PHALANGE POLITBURO AND THE SON OF PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL, MADE AN ENCOURAGINGLY MODERATE STATEMENT JULY 27. GEMAYEL CALLED FOR DIALOGUE WITH THE ADF, SAID THAT FORCE IS NOT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OR NON-WITHDRAWAL OF THE ADF, AND (MOST POSITIVELY) NOTED THAT LEBANESE ACCORD HAD TO BE ACHIEVED BEFORE THE ADF COULD LEAVE. GEMAYEL ALSO HELD OUT THE OLIVE BRANCH TO SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH AND

OTHER NORTH LEBANESE MARONITES WHOSE FIGHT WITH THE PHALANGE HAS BEEN A MAJOR THREAT TO ANY PEACE SINCE PHALANGE MILITIAMEN MURDERED FRANJIYAH'S SON, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND GRAND-DAUGHTER IN MID JUNE. GEMAYEL SAID THAT "THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME FOR CALM, COLLECTED TALK. FEELINGS ARE STILL RAW AND IN MANY WAYS THAT IS JUSTIFIED... BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THINGS WILL SETTLE DOWN AND IT WILL BECOME OBVIOUS THAT THERE WOUND WAS OUR WOUND AND THEIR SORROW OUR SORROW AND THEIR LOSS OUR LOSS."

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O P 281255Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8949

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

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COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 4284

B. AMIN'S FATHER, PIERRE, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESCRIBED LEBANON'S TROUBLES AS PART OF "WORLD WAR III." HE SAID THE NEW WAR IS ONE OF "SUBVERSION" THAT IS BEING WAGED IN YEMEN AND AFGHANISTAN, AS WELL AS LEBANON. PIERRE SAID THAT THE SYRIANS SEEMED TO BE PREPARING FOR "TOTAL MILITARY VICTORY"

AND REMINDED SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD OF THE LATTER'S OWN  
1976 WARNING THAT A DECISIVE MILITARY VICTORY IN LEBANON  
WOULD LEAD TO THE CREATION OF A "MINI-STATE OF VANQUISHED  
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EPOPLE, FULL OF HATRED FOR THE ARABS AND ISLAM AND MORE  
DANGEROUS TO THE ARAB WORLD THAN ISRAEL."

C. THE MARONITE PATRIARCH ANTONIUS BUTROS KHURAYSH ANNOUN-  
CED HIS INTENTION TO TRAVEL TO "WESTERN COUNTRIES" TO "CALL  
ON EVERYONE WE MEET OR CONTACT TO HELP LEBANON OUT OF THIS  
MESS." HE ALSO CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT TO "TELL THE PEOPLE  
THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION -- ABOUT WHO OBEYS  
ORDERS AND WHO DOESN'T." THE PATRIARCH ANNOUNCED THAT HE  
HAD PROTESTED TO THE PRESIDENT AGAINST "THE INDISCRIMINATE  
SHELLING WHICH WAS VICTIMIZED INNOCENT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND  
ELDERLY PEOPLE AND DESTROYED HOMES, CHURCHES, HOSPITALS AND  
SCHOOLS." KHURAYSH THEN COMPLAINED THAT THE OFFICIAL STATE  
RADIO HAD NOT ACCURATELY BROADCAST HIS STATEMENT OF JULY 26,  
CONDEMNING THE ADF BOMBARDMENT OF HADATH AND OTHER BEIRUT  
SUBURBS.

5. FORMER PRIME MINISTER WARNS AGAINST POLITICAL ATTEMPTS  
TO ISOLATE MAJOR PARTIES. IN AN APPARENT CRITICISM OF PAR-  
LIAMENTARY SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD'S MOVE TO FORM AN "ANTI-PARTITION  
FRONT" AND MOVES TO UNITE NORTH LEBANON'S MARONITES AND  
OTHER SECTS AGAINST THE PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES,  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD  
"REJECT ANY FACTIONAL ALLIANCE" WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO "THE  
ISOLATION OF CERTAIN FACTIONS ON A SECTARIAN BASIS."

6. PRESS REPORTS ON MOVEMENT OF THE ARMY TO THE SOUTH. THE  
MAJOR DAILIES CARRIED PROMINENT COVERAGE OF A GOVERNMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INFORMED THE US,  
GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY'S PLAN TO MOVE  
TO THE SOUTH SHORTLY. THE PRESS ALSO NOTED NEWS AGENCY  
REPORTS THAT BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT WING LEBANESE MILITIAS WOULD  
OPPOSE THE ENTRY OF THE ARMY INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS IN  
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THE SOUTH.

7. INTRA-PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST VIOLENCE IN WEST  
BEIRUT.

A. HANNAH MUQBIL, A LEFTIST PALESTINIAN WRITER AND

FATAH MEMBER WHO SUPPORTS LEFTIST OPPONENTS OF YASIR ARAFAT, WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED WHEN OVER 50 ROUNDS WERE FIRED AT HIM BY UNKNOWN GUNMEN IN THE CORNICHE MAZRA AREA OF WEST BEIRUT. NAJI 'ALUSH, A PROMINENT FATAH LEFTIST WHO WAS RECENTLY RELEASED FROM HOUSE ARREST BY FATAH SECURITY, BLAMED "PALESTINIAN RIGHTISTS" (A LEFTIST CODEWORD FOR ARAFAT AND HIS SUPPORTERS) FOR THE ATTACK.

B. ON JULY 26 PALESTINIAN SECURITY FORCES ARRESTED LEBANESE LEFTIST AHMAD SHINQAR AND KILLED HIS BROTHER MUSTAFA SHINQAR IN FIGHTING WHICH BROKE OUT WHEN THE SHINQARS RESISTED ARREST. THE PALESTINE ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND STILL HOLDS AHMAD SHINQAR, WHO WITH HIS BROTHER WAS ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING AND KILLING BEIRUT CHRISTIANS. BOTH THE SHIQARS ARE WELL KNOWN LEFTIST THUGS WHO HAD REPUTATION OF BEING AMONG WORST MURDERS OF CHRISTIAN CIVILIANS DURING THE 1975-76 FIGHTING. PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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